



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Monteiro and Councilor Peruzzotti

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Lori Watrous.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

Councilor Watson read a proclamation from Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell recognizing municipal clerks.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

John Valentine, 764 Groton Long Point Road, is concerned about the cost of repairs due to window leakage at Fitch Senior High School. He believes that if the windows were installed correctly, the manufacturer should be held responsible. Mr. Valentine also stated that he has noticed many roads with large overhanging tree branches. These are a safety hazard and should be removed.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Kolnaski noted that the school that had window leakage problems was Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School. A settlement was made with the architect to correct the problem.

The Town Manager clarified that the leakage problem at Fitch Senior High School is due to water getting into the envelope of the building, not due to the windows themselves. A third party has been contacted to investigate the problem. The Town Manager will inform Groton Utilities and Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) about the overhanging tree branches.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0108 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of March 29, 2010, April 20, 2010, and April 27, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0093 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

Johnson's True Value Hardware - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Chelsea Groton Bank - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Bill and Christine Grady - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
William and Deborah Sanford in memory of Dorothy Doyle - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary
Susan and Francis Corallino in memory of Dorothy Doyle - \$30.00 - Library Discretionary
John and Kathy Delaney in memory of Dorothy Doyle - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary
CSEA Chapter 416 - \$200.00 - Library Discretionary
Carole and Dick McCarthy in memory of Dorothy Doyle - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary
Bessy Reyna - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
K&M Sports, LLC - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Steven C. Mitchell - \$300.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2010-0035 Land Acquisition - Merritt Property**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0071 FYE 2011 Proposed Budget Deliberations

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0078 Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) Request for Endorsement of Hazelnut Hill Land Purchase

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0095 Resolution Approving Budgets for FYE 2011

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0096 Computation of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2011)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0097 Computation of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove (FYE 2011)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0098 Computation of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District (FYE 2011)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0100 Acceptance of a Portion of Great Brook Road

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0102 Acceptance of Pendleton Farm Lane

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0103 Acceptance of Open Space in Pendleton Farm Lane Subdivision

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0107 Steelworkers Contract

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0109 Extension of Time to Participate in GMEA 2010 Retirement Incentive Program

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Flax, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**a. Town Councilors**

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Adult Computer Learning Center Coordinating Council meeting. Councilor Kolnaski, along with Mayor Streeter, attended the Arbor Day Celebration at Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School where she read a proclamation.

Councilor Sheets attended a Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community meeting.

Councilor Watson attended a Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority meeting.

Councilor Johnson attended an Economic Development Commission meeting.

2010-0112 Joint Meeting with Economic Development Commission**JOINT MEETING WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Councilor Johnson requested that the Council meet with the Economic Development Commission to discuss ideas for bringing new businesses to Groton.

a. Town Councilors (continued)

Mayor Streeter attended the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments meeting, the Pequot Woods meeting, the ribbon-cutting at "The Shack" restaurant, and a CCM workshop entitled "Ethics, Accountability, and Conflict". The Mayor reminded citizens that regional household hazardous waste collection days have been scheduled. He also noted Mystic Flag Day will be June 14, 2010.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM began its Annual Budget meeting on May 03, 2010. This meeting will continue over the next three weeks.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager received a letter from the Noank Zoning Commission requesting the removal of the parking lot at Noank School since the temporary Senior Center is no longer there.

2010-0113 Joint Meeting with Noank Executive Board**JOINT MEETING WITH NOANK EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Councilor Watson requested a meeting with the Noank Fire District board to discuss delaying the removal of the parking lot at Noank School.

d. Town Manager (continued)

The Town Manager stated that the federal government did not approve a disaster designation due to the recent flooding. The request will be resubmitted with documented damages, and he encouraged residents to dial "211" to report any damages incurred. The Town Manager will meet with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel on May 6, 2010, to discuss flood maps. He stated that Tyler Technologies has been retained to perform a revaluation. Mr. Oefinger noted that nominations are being accepted for the 7th Annual Jacqueline B. Nixon Service Award. The Town Manager stated that two bids have been received for the Mystic Streetscape project. By consensus of the Council, Group II will meet on May 11, 2010, but there will be no Group I or Committee of the Whole meeting.

e. Town Attorney

A Town Attorney opinion was received regarding City highway budget requests.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2010-0100 Acceptance of a Portion of Great Brook Road****ACCEPTANCE OF A PORTION OF GREAT BROOK ROAD**

WHEREAS, the Great Brook Subdivision was approved on May 10, 2005, and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2010 the Planning Commission recommended acceptance of the Phase I portion of Great Brook Road consisting of 1,480 linear feet and associated public improvements, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts Great Brook Road, Phase I, as a Town street.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0102 Acceptance of Pendleton Farm Lane**ACCEPTANCE OF PENDLETON FARM LANE**

WHEREAS, the Pendleton Farm Lane Subdivision was approved on March 13, 2007, and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010 the Planning Commission recommended acceptance of a 430 linear feet road known as Pendleton Farm Lane along with associated public improvements, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts Pendleton Farm Lane as a Town street.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be

Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0103

Acceptance of Open Space in Pendleton Farm Lane Subdivision

ACCEPTANCE OF OPEN SPACE IN PENDLETON FARM LANE SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the Pendleton Farm Lane Subdivision was approved on March 13, 2007, and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010 the Planning Commission recommended acceptance of an open space parcel totalling approximately 9.29 acres, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts the open space parcel in the Pendleton Farm Lane Subdivision.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The Town Manager stated that this land must remain open space.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0109

Extension of Time to Participate in GMEA 2010 Retirement Incentive Program

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF TIME FRAME TO ELECT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2010 RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE GROTON MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2010, the Town Council resolved to amend the Agreement Providing for Pensions for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association as outlined in the attached 2010 Retirement Incentive Program Description for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association/United Electrical Local 222/Connecticut Independent Labor Union Local 62, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Town and GMEA are continuing to work diligently to arrive at a variety of cost savings measures for the Town and these discussions have extended beyond the original deadline for election by GMEA members to participate in the 2010 Retirement Incentive Program; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of fostering continued, good faith discussions with the GMEA, it is hereby

RESOLVED, the deadline for eligible members of the GMEA to apply for the 2010 Retirement Incentive Program is extended from April 9, 2010 to May 15, 2010. Employees must elect to retire on or before June 15, 2010. The Town Manager and/or his designee shall have the discretion to implement an alternative retirement date between May 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010 in consideration of the operational requirements of the Town.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Streeter requested that sponsors report the progress for each of the Town Council goals by the end of May.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant